

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-11**

Whereas, The year 2026 will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the independence of the United States of America; and,

Whereas, “Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” remains one of the guiding principles of the nation; and,

Whereas, The United States Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance at the successful conclusion of the American Revolution, defining how new states would be brought into the Union; and,

Whereas, The nation ratified the Constitution and the Bill of Rights that, combined, laid the groundwork that the government’s purpose was to maintain individual liberties; and,

Whereas, The first Independence Day celebration occurred in 1825 in what is present-day Fort Pierre, South Dakota. During negotiations between the United States and the Lakota and Cheyenne tribes, people played games, held horse races, read the Declaration of Independence, and signed a treaty of trade and friendship; and,

Whereas, The nation ratified further amendments to the Bill of Rights after the Civil War, further fulfilling the promise first formulated in 1776; and,

Whereas, The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Wacipi conducted and maintained one of the oldest and longest running Independence Day celebrations in South Dakota, which was first held in 1867; and,

Whereas, South Dakota territorial leaders, many of whom were Civil War veterans, implemented this nation’s ideals in South Dakota’s Constitution, which, in concert with the United States Constitution, preserves life, liberty, and allows for the continued “pursuit of happiness” under “the consent of the governed;” and,

Whereas, South Dakotans and South Dakota’s communities, cultural institutions, historical societies, and state, tribal, and local governments are proud partners in the remembrance of the events of the Declaration of Independence and its ideals that unite us; and,

Whereas, South Dakotans appreciate the opportunities secured for them by the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the institutions created by those documents, and the citizens who served in the Armed Forces; and,

Whereas, To observe this momentous anniversary, the United States Congress established the U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission in 2016 to plan, encourage, develop, and coordinate the commemoration of the United States' history leading up to the 250th anniversary of the United States' founding:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, including SDCL 1-32-4.1, do hereby Order and Direct the following:

General Provisions

Section 1. The America 250th South Dakota Commission is hereby established. The Commission shall plan, encourage, develop, coordinate, and promote observances and activities to be held in South Dakota in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of our nation's beginning, in celebration of our present, and in anticipation of our promising future.

Section 2. The Governor may appoint as many members as the Governor deems necessary to carry out the directives of the Commission, to include:

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| 1) Cabinet Secretaries, or their designees, | 6) members appointed by the Governor representing the geographic and cultural diversity of the State, |
| 2) Director of the State Historical Society, serving as chairperson, | 7) representative(s) and senator(s) of the state legislature, |
| 3) the State Librarian, | 8) representative(s) of local history organizations, and |
| 4) representative(s) from the Board of Regents, | 9) any other interested representative(s) the Governor deems necessary. |
| 5) representative(s) of the Historical Society Foundation, | |

All members serve at the pleasure of the Governor. In the event of vacancies, appointments shall be made by the Governor. The Commission shall meet as often as needed, at the discretion of the Chair.

Section 3. The Commission shall appoint a Tribal Advisory Subcommittee and invite representatives from all nine federally recognized tribes within the State of South Dakota to coordinate educational opportunities, activities, and events with the Commission. The Commission may appoint other subcommittees as necessary to carry out the purpose of the Commission.

Section 4. The Commission shall coordinate, review, and promote programs and activities throughout the state relating to the Declaration of Independence, the founding era, and the "pursuit of happiness," in order to deepen the knowledge and understanding of this formative

period of American history and how it has shaped and continues to shape who we are as a people, a state, and a nation.

Section 5. The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is hereby designated to be the sole agent for soliciting and accepting donations and grants to the state in order to carry out the purposes of this Executive Order and the Commission's work. Donated funds designated for this purpose shall only be disbursed upon recommendation by a majority of the Commission and finally approved by the Chair.

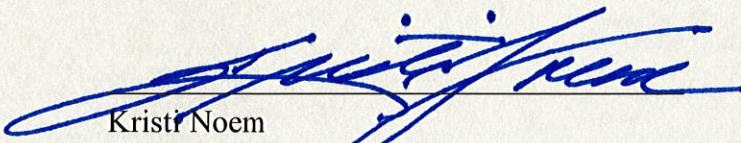
Section 6. The Department of Education and the Historical Society shall provide administrative, technical, and legal support to the Commission. Other state agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources to assist the Commission, as needed.

Section 7. Each member of the Commission shall be entitled to allowable expense reimbursements pursuant to SDCL 3-8-4.1. Each member, other than state employees, shall be entitled to per diem compensation for service to the Commission. The Commission is attached to the Department of Education, from which such expenses shall be paid.


Section 8. The Commission shall complete its work and be dissolved and repealed on March 31, 2027, with a prior report to the Governor to be maintained in the State Archives for a potential tricentennial commission to use in preparation for its work in 2076.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota this 6th day of July, 2023.




Kristi Noem
Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:


Monae L. Johnson
Secretary of State